

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF MARCH 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The month of March produced warm winter conditions with above average temperatures across the state of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters in Chouteau and Phillips counties noted it has been an unusual winter, with unseasonably warm temperatures and rapidly melting snow cover that could delay planting due to the increase of soil moisture. Topsoil moisture conditions were 90 percent adequate to surplus. Subsoil moisture conditions were 94 percent adequate to surplus. Winter freeze and wind damage to winter wheat remains light. Freeze damage for the state is estimated at 75 percent light to none, which is above the 50 percent reported the previous year. Wind damage was reported at 76 percent light to none, compared to 67 percent the year before. Snow coverage for the state is rated 11 percent good to excellent, which is below the 81 percent reported the previous year. Calving and lambing continues to make progress, with 30 percent of cows calved and 25 percent of ewes lambed.

Note: The first weekly report will be released on Monday, April 6, 2020.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	30	2	13	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	94	97	95	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed.....	25	1	7	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	98	96	97	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short.....	--	8	1	NA
Short.....	10	10	5	NA
Adequate.....	72	68	75	NA
Surplus.....	18	14	19	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	1	1	1	NA
Short.....	5	11	12	NA
Adequate.....	71	75	80	NA
Surplus.....	23	13	7	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open	47	44	33	NA
Difficult	16	24	25	NA
Closed	37	32	42	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor	--	--	1	NA
Poor	2	23	4	NA
Fair	48	40	33	NA
Good	48	25	40	NA
Excellent	2	12	22	NA
Winter wheat – wind damage				
None	23	47	56	NA
Light	53	49	11	NA
Moderate	20	4	32	NA
Heavy	4	--	1	NA
Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage				
None	33	43	31	NA
Light	42	53	19	NA
Moderate	25	4	47	NA
Heavy	--	--	3	NA
Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover				
Very poor	46	17	8	NA
Poor	31	25	11	NA
Fair	12	37	16	NA
Good	9	18	34	NA
Excellent	2	3	31	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero